

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02826 091054Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8241

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS VIENNA 2826

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO, AU

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN VIENNA,
APRIL 7

REF: VIENNA 2825

1. PRESS CONFERENCE OF PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO
AT CLOSE OF HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO AUSTRIA APRIL 7 FOCUSED
MAINLY UPON INTERNAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND HIS OWN FUTURE.
IN ADDITION, HE TOLD QUESTIONER THAT PORTUGAL UNDER HIS
GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT AGAIN VOTE FOR ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION
AT UN AND REITERATED EXPRESSIONS OF ADMIRATION FOR AUSTRIA
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 02826 091054Z

REPORTED PREVIOUSLY.

2. ASKED ABOUT A WEST GERMAN PRESS REPORT THAT GENERAL SPINOLA WAS IN DUSSENLDORF TO SEEK MONEY, MEN AND WEAPONS FOR COUP IN PORTUGAL, AZEVEDO REPLIED THAT, POLITICALLY, SPINOLA WAS DEAD, AND THAT COUP WAS NOT NOW POSSIBLE IN PORTUGAL BECAUSE SEVEN MILLION PORTUGUESE WERE OPPOSED TO IT. HE SAID TOTALITARIAN GROUPS IN PORTUGAL WOULD HAVE TO MOVE SLOW IN ANY EFFORT TO SEIZE POWER.

3. ABOUT HIS OWN FUTURE, AZEVEDO SAID HE WOULD NOT BECOME CANDIDATE OF ANY ONE PARTY FOR PRESIDENCY OF PORTUGAL BUT WOULD NOT REJECT SUPPORT OF THREE CURRENT GOVERNMENT PARTIES. HE DENIED THAT THIS POSITION IMPLIED OTHER PARTIES WERE NOT DEMOCRATIC; HE ONLY WISHED TO EMPHASIZE THAT HE WOULD NOT BE A PARTY CANDIDATE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT NATIONALIZATION IN PORTUGAL AND FUTURE OF CONSTITUTIONALLY IMPOSED SOCIALISM SHOULD NON-SOCIALISTS OBTAIN MAJORITY IN FORTHCOMING PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS, AZEVEDO RESPONDED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER NATIONALIZATIONS AND THAT EVEN CONSTITUTIONS WERE NOT IMMUTABLE.BUCHANAN

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